



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100

Sacramento, CA. 95814

August 22, 2007

IN REPLY REFER TO

HDA-CA

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Mr. Will Kempton, Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Office, M.S. 82
For Rachel Falsetti, Division of Transportation Programming

Dear Mr. Kempton:

SUBJECT: SANDAG 2006 RTIP/FSTIP AMENDMENT NO. 6

We have completed our review of Amendment No. 6 to the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) 2006 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) that was submitted by your letter dated July 25, 2007. The SANDAG Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 2008-01 on July 20, 2007, approving this RTIP modification and reaffirming the conformity of the transportation improvement program with the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality. As detailed in the enclosure to your letter, this SANDAG RTIP amendment proposes to add 44 new project listings, delete 4 project listings, and modify 80 project listings in California's 2006/07-2009/10 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP). Based on our review of the RTIP financial constraint documentation that was submitted with this amendment, we have determined that the amended RTIP is financially constrained as required by the Federal surface transportation programs authorizing legislation and statewide and metropolitan planning and programming regulations.

We find that the SANDAG 2006 RTIP, including Amendment No. 6, was developed through a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process in accord with the metropolitan transportation planning provisions of 23 U.S.C. §134 and 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 as amended by Section 6001 of Public Law 109-59, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The addition of this fourth year of programming revises the SANDAG MPO 2006/07 – 2008/09 RTIP into the 2006/07 – 2009/10 RTIP. This approval does not constitute a compliance finding with the remainder of the SAFETEA-LU provisions, but constitutes approval and inclusion of the SANDAG MPO RTIP Amendment No. 6 into California's 2006/07 – 2009/10 FSTIP. Based upon FHWA's understanding that a gap closure analysis has been completed, SANDAG will be able to continue to amend the 2006/07 – 2009/10 RTIP beyond the SAFETEA-LU implementation deadline of July 1, 2007.

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We have determined that the adopted modifications to the SANDAG RTIP that are proposed for inclusion in California's 2006 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) by this amendment are associated with projects or project phases that are exempt from the requirement to determine conformity pursuant to 40 CFR §93.126 or §93.127, and as a consequence, this amendment is not subject to the regional emissions analysis and conformity determination requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Transportation Conformity Rule as amended. Our transportation planning and air quality conformity findings have been coordinated with the regional offices of the U.S. EPA and Federal Transit Administration (FTA). We are approving this amendment to the 2006 FSTIP for the SANDAG region in accord with the *July 15, 2004, Memorandum of Understanding between the FHWA, California Division and the FTA, Region IX*.

If you have questions or need additional information concerning our FSTIP approval for this SANDAG RTIP amendment, please contact Wade Hobbs of the FHWA California Division office at (916) 498-5027, or by email at wade.hobbs@fhwa.dot.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Leslie T. Rogers

Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

/s/ K. Sue Kiser

For
Gene K. Fong
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

cc: (e-mail)

Randy Steen, Caltrans, Federal Resources

Abhijit Bagde, Caltrans, Transportation Programming

Sookyung Kim, SANDAG

John Kelly, EPA Region IX (kelly.johnj@epa.gov)

Hymie Luden, FTA Region IX

cc:

SANDAG 2006 FTIP Binder

WEH/ac